



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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August 16, 2011

Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Abandonment of and Discontinuance of Service over Hampton Branch-AB 1080X & 1082X

Good Morning:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental/Historical Report to be provided to the Surface Transportation Board by the Boston & Maine Corporation and Springfield Terminal Railway Company (B&M). The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Office) has provided previous general comments regarding the proposed project. The following comments are clarifications specific to the report.

- Please note that all references to the "Historical Commission" and "Commissioner" related to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources use inaccurate terminology. New Hampshire's State Historic Preservation Office is the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, which could also be referred to as the NHDHR, NHSHPO, or the Division, if appropriate. (II; 3 and 7)
- Please note that the statement, "The Applicants know of no sites or structures on the Line that are 50 years or older or that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places," appears inaccurate. As noted in the report, the NHDHR informed the applicant that the line in question is a resource older than 50 years, eligible for the National Register, and contains numerous contributing structures that are both. Subsequently, the applicant copied the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources Area Form for the resource (prepared not by NHDHR but by independent consultant Lisa Mausolf) which provided the applicant with additional information regarding historic structures along the corridor. (II; 3, 4, 6, and 7)
- Please note that the NHDHR requests continued consultation as project plans develop, and will provide concurrence and/or comment regarding determination of effect after receipt of more developed project plans.

Sincerely,

Laura S. Black
Special Projects and Compliance Specialist

Cc: Robert B. Burns, B&M

